

## NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

## Jeff. Davis' Message to the Rebel Congress.

The Rebel Leaders Have Attempted More Than They Can Achieve.

## Important Meeting of Cotton and Tobacco Planters at Richmond.

## THE DESPAIRING CRY OF THE REBELS.

## The Town of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Burned by Gen. McCulloch.

## All Communication Between Savannah and Fort Pulaski Cut Off.

## Jeff Davis' Message to the Rebel Congress.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES:

In obedience to the constitutional provisions requiring the President from time to time to give to Congress information of the state of the confederacy, and recommending for their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, I have to communicate to you the state of the confederacy at the close of the Provisional Congress which has just adjourned.

It is a source of regret to me that the government has not been able to accomplish all that it had power successfully to achieve. Hence in the effort to protect by our arms the whole territory of the Confederate States, seaboard and inland, we have been so exposed as recently to encounter serious disasters. When the confederacy was formed the States comprising it were, in the peculiar character of their pursuits and a misplaced confidence in their former associates, to a great extent destitute of the means for the prosecution of the war on a gigantic scale as to which it has attained. The warships and armies were mainly to be found in the Northern States, and one of the first duties which devolved upon the government was to establish the necessary manufactures, and in the meantime to obtain, by purchase from abroad, as far as practicable, whatever was required for the public defense. No effort has been spared to effect both these ends, and though the results have not equalled our hopes, it is believed that an impartial judgment will, upon full investigation, award to the various departments of the government, credit for having done all which human power and foresight enabled them to accomplish.

The valor and devotion of the people have not only sustained the efforts of the government, but have gone far to support its deficiencies. The active state of military preparations among the nations of Europe in 1861, the date when our agents first went abroad, interposed insurmountable delays in the procurement of arms, and the want of a navy has greatly impeded our efforts to import military supplies of all sorts.

I have hoped for several days to receive the official reports in relation to our discomfiture at Roanoke Island and the fall of Fort Donelson. They have not yet reached me, and I am, therefore, unable to communicate to you such information of past events and consequences resulting therefrom as would enable me to make recommendations founded upon the changed condition of things which have been produced. Enough is known, however, of the surrender of Roanoke Island to make me feel that it was deeply humiliating, however imperfect may have been the preparation for defense. The hope is still entertained that our reported losses at Fort Donelson have been greatly exaggerated, inasmuch as I am not only unwilling but unable to believe that a large army of our people have surrendered without a desperate effort to cut their way through the investing forces, whatever may have been their numbers, and to endeavor to make a junction with other divisions of the army.

But in the absence of that exact information which can only be afforded by official reports, it would be premature to pass judgment, and my own is reserved, as I trust yours will be, until that information is received.

In the meantime, strenuous efforts have been made to throw forward reinforcements to the armies at positions threatened, and I cannot doubt the bitter disappointments we have borne by seeing the people to still greater exertions, will speedily secure results more accordant with our just expectations, and as favorable to our cause as those which marked the earlier period of the war.

The reports of the Secretaries of War and Navy will exhibit the mass of resources for the conduct of the war, which we have been enabled to accumulate notwithstanding the very serious difficulties against which we have contended. They afford cheering hope that our resources, limited as they were at the beginning of the contest, during its progress became developed to such an extent as fully to meet our future wants.

The policy of abstention for short terms, against which I have steadily contended from the commencement of the war, has, in my judgment, contributed in no immaterial degree to the recent reverses which we have suffered, and even now renders it difficult to furnish you an accurate statement of the army. When the war first broke out many of our people could with difficulty be persuaded that it would be long or serious. It was not deemed possible that anything so grave as a permanent attempt to subjugate these States could be made; still less that the delusion could so prevail as to give the war the vast proportions which it has assumed. The people, incredulous of a long war, were naturally averse to long enlistments, and the early legislation of Congress rendered it impracticable to obtain volunteers for a greater period than twelve months. Now that it has become probable that the war will be continued through a series of years, our high spirited and gallant soldiers, while generally re-entailing, are, from the fact of having entered the service for a short term, compelled, in many instances, to go home to make necessary arrangements for their families during their prolonged absence. The quotas of new recruits for the war, called for from the different States, are in rapid progress of organization. The whole body of new levies and re-enlisted men will probably be ready in the ranks within the next thirty days. But, in the meantime it is exceedingly difficult to give an accurate statement of the number of our forces in the field.

They may in general terms be stated at four hundred regiments of infantry, with proportionate forces of cavalry and artillery, the details of which will be shown by the report of the Secretary of War.

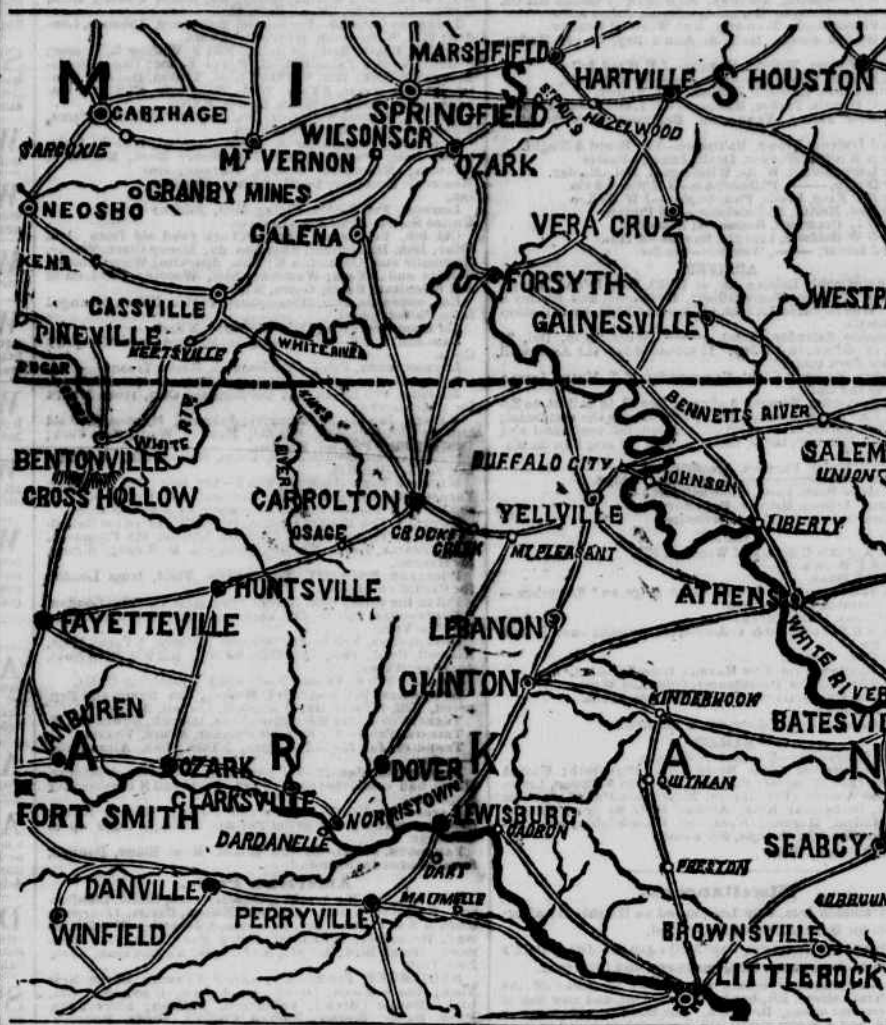
I deem it proper to advert to the fact that the process of furlough and re-enlistment in progress for the last month had so far disorganized and weakened our forces as to impair our ability for successful defense; but I hereby congratulate you that this evil which I had foreseen and was powerless to prevent, may now be said to be substantially at an end, and that we shall not again during the war be exposed to seeing our strength diminished by this fruitful cause of disaster—short enlistments.

The people of the Confederate States, being principally engaged in agricultural pursuits were unprovided at the commencement of hostilities with ships, ship yards, materials for ship building or skilled mechanics and men in sufficient numbers to make the prompt creation of a navy a practical task, even if the required appropriations had been made for the purpose. Notwithstanding our very limited resources, however, the report of the Secretary will exhibit to you a satisfactory proposition in preparation, and certainty of the near completion of vessels of a number and class, on which we may confidently rely for contesting the coveted control of the enemy over our waters.

The financial system devised by the wisdom of your predecessors has proved adequate to supplying all the wants of the government, notwithstanding the great and very large increase of expenditure resulting from a great augmentation in the necessary measures of defense. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will exhibit the gratifying fact that we have no special debt,

## OPERATIONS IN ARKANSAS.

## The Position of Benton and Fayetteville, Recently Captured by Gen. Curtis.



that the credit of the government is unimpaired, and that the total expenditure of the government for the year has been, in round numbers, one hundred and seventy millions of dollars—less than one-third of the sum wasted by the enemy in his vain effort to conquer us, less than the value of a slight article of export—the cotton crop of the year.

The report of the Postmaster General will show the condition of that department to be steadily improving, its revenue increasing, and already affording assurances that it will be self-sustained at the date required by the constitution, while affording ample facilities for the people.

In the Department of Justice, which includes the Patent Office and the Public Printing, some legislative provision will be required, which will be specifically stated in the report of the head of that department.

I invite the attention of Congress to the duty of organizing a Supreme Court of the Confederate States, in accordance with the mandate of the constitution.

I refer you to my message, communicated to the Provisional Congress in November last, for such further information touching the condition of public affairs as it might be useful to lay before you the short interval, which has elapsed since not having produced any material changes in that condition, other than those to which reference has already been made.

In conclusion, I cordially welcome the representatives, who, recently chosen by the people, are fully imbued with their views and feelings, and can so ably devise means and needful provisions for the public service. I assure you of my hearty co-operation in all efforts for the common welfare of the country.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

## Newspaper Accounts.

EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF UNION PRISONERS FROM COLUMBUS, S. C.

The Richmond Dispatch says that one hundred Yankee prisoners at Columbus, S. C., were expected to arrive on the evening of the 28th inst. Three instances of an equal number will be brought down from that city, where the whole of them will be sent to Newport News en route.

PROPOSED DESTRUCTION OF THE COTTON AND TOBACCO CROPS.

A meeting of the cotton and tobacco planters was held at the City Hall, at Richmond, on Wednesday evening, to take into consideration the voluntary destruction of the cotton and tobacco crops, in view of the fact that the efforts of the enemy were mainly directed towards robbing the South of their accumulation of these two great staples. A number of speeches were made and a committee was appointed to prepare a resolution for an adjourned meeting the same evening.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REBEL CONGRESS.

In Congress, on Wednesday, Senator Simms, of Kentucky, offered resolutions declaring that the people of the Confederate States will, to the last extremity, maintain and defend their right to self-government and the government established by them, and to this end to pledge their last man and their last dollar for the prosecution of the war until their independence is acknowledged; and also, that they will submit to any sacrifice, and endure any trial, however severe, and, firmly trusting upon the justice of their cause, and, buoyed up by the confidence of God, will maintain their position before the world and high Heaven while they have a voice to raise or an arm to defend.

The resolutions were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

A resolution was offered providing for compensation by the government for cotton and tobacco burned to prevent their falling into the hands of the United States.

COTTON FACTORIES BURNED.

Richmond, Feb. 27, 1862.

Schley's new extensive cotton and woolen factory was burned on Tuesday night. The loss is heavy.

The cotton factories at Columbus and Augusta have suspended temporarily in consequence of material injury to their dams and canals by the recent freshet.

AFFAIRS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The Raleigh Register of the 26th inst. says:—

Two men were brought to this city on Monday as prisoners, on the charge of having piloted the Yankees to Roanoke Island. They were arrested on board a schooner a short distance from Plymouth. They were committed to jail.

The same paper in an editorial begins by saying that it would be criminal as well as idle to deny that the present is the most gloomy period that the South has witnessed since the commencement of the war, and goes on in the most earnest manner to call on the people to stand by their colors and fight to the last.

All the prisoners taken at Roanoke Island have been released on parole.

Quite a number of them arrived at Raleigh on Monday, and they stated that a hundred and fifty were left at Fort Mifflin to come on Tuesday.

Five regiments of volunteers for the war are wanted to make up the quota of North Carolina, and Governor Clarke has issued a proclamation appealing to the patriotism of the citizens of the State to fill up the regiments.

REBEL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SAVANNAH AND FORT PULASKI CUT OFF.

AGUSTA, Feb. 26, 1862.

The Savannah Republic of this morning says that communication with Fort Pulaski has been effectually closed by the federals, who have erected three batteries for heavy guns.

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK., BURNED BY THE REBELS.

Memphis, Feb. 26, 1862.

Generals Price and McCulloch are both preparing for battle. The former is on the side of Fayetteville, and the latter is at Boston Mountain, with a force of cavalry.

Memphis, Feb. 26, 1862.

The town of Fayetteville, Arkansas, has been burned to the ground, by order of General McCulloch. The military stores were first burned. The Confederate army at Boston Mountain are preparing for battle.

Late advices from Knoxville state that the Confederates at the Cumberland Gap expect an early engagement. The federals are frequently in sight.

It is reported that nine federal gunboats and fifteen transports were seen on Sunday at Mayfield. No immediate action was expected.

AFFAIRS IN TENNESSEE.

CAIRO, Feb. 28, 1862.

The rebel War Department has called on Tennessee for thirty-two regiments.

An official dispatch received at Knoxville says that an ample force will advance from Richmond to protect East Tennessee.

Governor Harris has taken the field in person. The report of General Beauregard's illness is unfounded. He left Corinth for Columbus on the 19th.

The Memphis Avalanche of the 24th inst. says persons reported to have left General Johnston's command say that the entreaties no doubt of his ability to enter Nashville whenever he wishes to do so.

## IMPORTANT FROM TENNESSEE.

## Occupation of Nashville by the Union Forces.

## Offer of the Rebels at Murfreesborough to Capitulate.

## GEN. BUELL'S TERMS TO THE ENEMY.

## Unconditional Surrender or an Immediate Attack.

## A despatch was received at headquarters to-day, announcing that General Buell arrived at the north bank of the Cumberland river, opposite Nashville, on Tuesday, and found there some of the rebel pickets, which retired.

On Thursday the column, composed of Nelson's and Crittenden's brigades, marched without obstruction through the city, and encamped four miles beyond, on the road towards Murfreesborough, where the rebel army, under General Johnston, are reported to be preparing to make a stand.

A great deal of Union feeling was manifested by the citizens.

CAIRO, Feb. 28, 1862.

A report from Murfreesborough states that the rebels have concentrated at that place, and that General Buell had surrounded them so that none could escape. The rebels offered to surrender, their position if allowed to march out with the honor of a full surrender, and said that he would allow two days for consideration, and if the place was not surrendered at that time he would open fire upon them. The rebels retired this morning.

The rebel army, in their retreat from Nashville, left 1,600 sick and wounded, destroyed all the bridges, burned all the steamboats but one, which escaped. The rebels fired the city in many places, but the citizens extinguished the flames. The great majority of the property owners remained. The citizens were told that Governor Harris made a speech, and said that he had done all he could, and he was going to leave, and advised them to follow.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 28, 1862.

The St. Louis Democrat has a despatch, dated Clarksville, 30th inst., which says that the rebels, before leaving Nashville, plundered many dwellings and business houses, and excited great alarm among the people. Several rebels were shot by the citizens whom they were robbing. Gen. Nelson is in command at Nashville. Gen. Buell is still on the north side of the river. The Union sentiment is very strong, and our troops are received with the greatest cordiality. Great indignation is expressed against Governor Harris, who was fairly driven away by the Union men, they having become bold at the proximity of the Union troops, and daring to assert their rights. Before leaving Governor Harris made a speech recommending the citizens to burn their private property, and calling on Tennesseeans to rally and meet him at Memphis; but no one paid any attention to him, and it is thought he will not receive any considerable reinforcements.

General Crittenden's command had joined General Johnston at Murfreesborough.

A railroad bridge at Nashville had been destroyed by order of General Floyd, against the urgent entreaties of the citizens. The destruction of the bridge caused much indignation.

## Occupation of Nashville—The Proposed Evacuation of Columbus, &amp;c.

[From the Chicago Times, Feb. 26.]

Nashville is occupied by federal troops. Gen. Buell, on Sunday, at the head of a portion of his command, entered the city. The rebel troops, after committing all manner of depredations on public property, destroying the bridges, &c., fell back on Murfreesborough, on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, thirty-two miles southeast of the capital. It is thought they will avail themselves of the mountain passes in this neighborhood, and oppose the advance of our army into Northern Alabama. Gen. Buell had with him, in his advance from Murfreesborough, portions of McCulloch's, Crittenden's, and Nelson's commands. The rebels, who went up the Cumberland by steamer, are now at Murfreesborough, and have taken possession of the city. The rebels are now at Murfreesborough, and have taken possession of the city. The rebels are now at Murfreesborough, and have taken possession of the city.

General Halleck's Order Respecting the Rebel Prisoners in Arkansas.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 28, 1862.

General Halleck, in a General Order, states that sufficient information has been received that the rebels, in evacuating Murfreesborough, Arkansas, poisoned the provisions they were obliged to abandon, and that forty-two officers and men were poisoned by eating the same. He says we cannot retaliate by adopting the same barbarous mode of warfare, nor can we retaliate by punishing the innocent for the guilty. The laws of war forbid this. But the same code authorizes us to retaliate upon the guilty parties. Persons guilty of such acts, when captured, will not be treated as ordinary prisoners of war, nor will they be shot, but suffer the ignominious punishment of being hung as felons. Officers of troops guilty of such acts, although not themselves the advisers or abettors of the crime, will, when captured, be put in irons and conveyed as criminals to these headquarters. The laws of war make it their duty to prevent such barbarities. If they neglect that duty they must suffer the consequences.

## News from Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 27, 1862.

A flag of truce to-day took over fifty people to Craney Island.

The steaming Young America went to the assistance of the R. B. Forbes, before reported ashore about Nag's Head, yesterday morning. The crew were all taken off and brought here, together with their officers, baggage and a large portion of the stores at nine o'clock in the morning, and was totally destroyed. The rebels had threatened to take her; but the captain showed the greatest coolness in danger, and deserves great praise.

## Preparations for Colonel Corcoran's Reception.

The officers of the Sixty-ninth regiment New York State Militia held a meeting on Thursday evening, February 27, at their headquarters, Essex Market, Grand street, to make arrangements for the reception of their noble and gallant chief, on his return from his long and wearisome captivity.

A committee, consisting of Captains Bernard Kelly, John Breslin, Thomas Lynch, William Butler and Major Bagley, were appointed to proceed at once to Baltimore, and there await the Colonel's arrival by the Fortress Monroe boat.

A committee, consisting of Captains O'Keefe, M. Ryan, Dempsey, Theodore Kelly, Connan and Thomas Clarke, were appointed to make arrangements for his reception in New York. This committee will meet every evening at the headquarters, over Essex Market, Grand street, from seven to nine, until all arrangements are completed.

## News from San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 27, 1862.

The steamer Cortes, from Oregon and British Columbia, has arrived here, bringing \$120,000 in gold. The weather throughout the northern coast has been very cold.

Many persons on their way from Portland, Oregon, to the mines, have frozen to death.

Thousands who left California for the new El Dorado are detained at Portland until the spring opens.

The whale ship Joseph Grinnell has arrived from Palis, Peru, with 1,500 barrels of sperm oil.

Also arrived ship Charger, forty-nine days from Hong Kong.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Mr. Gottschalk's Matinee to-day will be a very brilliant affair, in point of attendance. The facility of securing seats without an extra charge has on this, as on the last occasion, secured a full house before-hand. The programme is a splendid one, and, in addition to the opera of "Heliogabrus," brings out the grand pianist in several compositions in which he has not been as yet heard.

## IMPORTANT FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

## Advance of Major General Banks Into Virginia.

## Bolívar and Charlestown in Our Hands.

## The Rebels Shelling the Railroad Trains.

## UNION SENTIMENT AMONG THE PEOPLE.

## BOLIVAR, JEFFERSON COUNTY, VA., February 28, 1862.

Since Monday night Harper's Ferry and its vicinity have changed hands. Our advance guard, consisting of the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania regiment, passed over the Potomac from Sandy Hook to Harper's Ferry before daybreak on Monday morning, by a rope ferry, and took possession of the town. Next day ample provision for transporting troops over the river was provided, and our advance guard was considerably reinforced.

Bolívar and Charlestown, and a considerable portion of the country on both banks of the Shenandoah, are now occupied by our troops. Except about twenty of the enemy, which have been captured, they all retired on the approach of our army. The people in this town and the neighboring places which our troops have occupied were in a condition bordering on starvation. There are comparatively few of the inhabitants remaining here now, and they all profess Union sentiments and great delight at being relieved from the thralldom which has oppressed them for the last six months. Many refugees are returning.

The right wing of the army has considerably curtailed the rebel territory in Virginia, and made a foothold for itself which all the power of the rebellion cannot wrest from it. Among the trophies taken from the enemy are several fine horses. The enemy has made and havoc among the residences of the Union people here since the departure of our troops.

So far no expression has been given to our advance, not a hostile shot having been fired. General Banks has established his headquarters on the road from Harper's Ferry to Bolivar. The enemy shelled the trains to-day at Berlin as they were passing down to Baltimore, but their practice was bad, and out of twelve shells fired only two exploded, and none of them did any damage.

The plans of General McClellan are being rapidly unfolded, and you may rely upon it, from my own personal observation, that the brave young chieftain is diligently as well as skilfully laboring to crush the monster rebellion at the latest moment.

To-night all goes well.

## THE EVACUATION OF COLUMBUS.

## The Rebels to Fall Back on an Island in the Mississippi.

## The Rails of the Memphis and Ohio Railroad Ordered to be Torn Up.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 28, 1862.

The Memphis papers of the 19th inst. say that Gen. Folk issued orders yesterday that the track of the Memphis and Ohio Railroad should be torn up, preparatory to the evacuation of Columbus and the demolition of the fortifications there. The Columbus forces are to fall back to Island No. 10, about forty-five miles below Columbus, which, it is said, completely commands the river, and can be fortified with heavy guns and made impregnable against any river attack.

CAIRO, Feb. 28, 1862.

We learn from a gentleman thoroughly conversant with Kentucky, that the rebels are dismantling their large gun at Columbus, and that the work of evacuation is now going on. Several transports are lying at Columbus to carry off the troops. Every man coming into Columbus is impressed—even farmers with their teams. Several hundred negroes were sent into the interior yesterday. This is from a reliable source.

## IMPORTANT SEIZURE AT THE SOUTH.

## Capture of the English Steamer Labuan off the Coast of Texas—Her Arrival at This Port in Charge of a Prize Crew—Dimensions of the Labuan and What She Cost, &amp;c., &amp;c.

Yesterday morning witnessed the arrival in the North river of another valuable prize, captured by the United States sloop-of-war Portsmouth on the 1st ultimo, at Boca Chica, a Texas port, a few miles from the Rio Grande. She is an English iron propeller, and her dimensions are as follows:—Length, 245 feet; width of beam, twenty feet; tonnage, 747; cost of building, \$115,000; date of building, 1855.

The Labuan is reported as being the property of the Messrs Bailey and Leatham, extensive merchants in Hull, England. Her decks are iron, overlaid with wood. Prior to her being sent to this country she had been engaged in the Baltic trade. After her capture by the Portsmouth she was taken to Ship Island, where, after a full inquiry before Commodore McKean, she was ordered to be brought to this port in charge of Acting Master Gilbert Richmond, who was the prize master on the occasion referred to.

After the time, and was chartered by her owners to the Messrs De Jersey, merchants in Manchester, England, for six months, and since that time she has been engaged in the Southern coast. Her outward cargo consisted, among other things, of blankets and soft goods; and upon these articles the sum of \$500,000 is said to have been realized.

The Labuan was taken as a prize her position was a few miles northward of Boca Chica. A steamer, laden with cotton, was waiting a favorable opportunity to get off to the Labuan, of New Orleans, when she was captured. The Labuan was ordered to be brought to this port in charge of Acting Master Gilbert Richmond, who was the prize master on the occasion referred to.

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